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Tennessee Cattle Numbers Continue Up Slightly for 2003

Tennessee experienced another excellent year for cattle production in 2002. Prices remained steady and relatively good during the year, despite abundant beef supplies, due in large part to strong domestic consumer demand. The total number of cattle and calves in the State on January 1, 2003, was **2.27 million**, 3 percent above last year's total of **2.20 million**. Debra Kenerson, State Statistician, remarked, "It is quite apparent that Tennessee producers are keeping more beef replacement heifers in efforts to increase herd size and take advantage of healthy market prospects over the next couple of years." This information is based on a recent cattle survey conducted by the Tennessee Agricultural Statistics Service. Results of the survey showed the following comparisons with January 1, 2002, inventories: **Beef cows** totaled just less than 1.11 million, up 46,000 head; **Milk cow** numbers were down 6,000 head to 84,000; **Calves** under 500 pounds down 20,000 head to 550,000; **Steers and other heifers** weighing 500 pounds and over, at 215,000 head, were up 22,000. Tennessee's 2002 **calf crop** was up 10,000 head to 1.06 million head. The **number of operations with cattle** totaled 51,000 during 2002, down by 1,000 from 2001. **Beef cow operations** in 2002 totaled 44,000, slightly down from 2001. **Milk cow operations** declined by 100 from 2001 to 1,400 in 2002.

U.S. January 1 Cattle Inventory Down 1 Percent

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2003, totaled 96.1 million head, 1 percent below the 96.7 million on January 1, 2002 and 1 percent below the 97.3 million two years ago. **All cows and heifers** that have calved, at 42.1 million, were down slightly from the 42.2 million on January 1, 2002 and down 1 percent from the 42.6 million two years ago.

- **Beef cows**, at 32.95 million, were down 1 percent from both January 1, 2002 and January 1, 2001.
- **Milk cows**, at 9.15 million, were up slightly from January 1, 2002 but down slightly from two years ago.
- **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, 19.6 million, down slightly.
- **Beef replacement heifers**, 5.61 million, up 1 percent.
- **Milk replacement heifers**, 4.10 million, up 1 percent.
- **Other heifers**, 9.89 million, down 2 percent.
- **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.6 million, down 1 percent.
- **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.25 million, up slightly.
- **Calves under 500 pounds**, 15.6 million, down 1 percent.
- **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots, 12.9 million, down 7 percent.
- The combined total of **calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds** outside of feedlots, 29.1 million, up 1 percent.

U.S. Calf Crop Down Slightly

The **2002 calf crop** was estimated at 38.2 million head, down slightly from 2001 and down 1 percent from 2000. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.9 million, down 1 percent from 2001 and down 2 percent from 2000.

Cattle Operations Down 2 Percent

The **number of operations with cattle** totaled 1.03 million during 2002, down 2 percent from 2001 and 4 percent below 2000. Beef cow operations in 2002 were down 1 percent from 2001 and 3 percent below 2000. Milk cow operations were 6 percent below last year and 13 percent below two years ago.

Cattle and Calves: Number on Farms by Classes, Tennessee and U.S., January 1, 2002-2003						
Class	Tennessee			United States		
	2002	2003	2003/2002	2002 ¹	2003	2003/2002
	Thousand Head		Percent	Thousand Head		Percent
All Cattle and Calves	2,200	2,270	103	96,704	96,106	99
All Cows That Have Calved	1,150	1,190	103	42,229	42,099	100
Beef	1,060	1,106	104	33,118	32,947	99
Milk	90	84	93	9,112	9,152	100
Heifers, 500 pounds plus	290	315	109	19,678	19,601	100
Beef Replacement	175	200	114	5,561	5,608	101
Milk Replacement	40	40	100	4,060	4,104	101
Other	75	75	100	10,057	9,890	98
Steers, 500 pounds plus	118	140	119	16,790	16,590	99
Bulls, 500 pounds plus	72	75	104	2,244	2,253	100
Calves, under 500 pounds	570	550	96	15,763	15,563	99
Calves Born ²	1,050	1,060	101	38,280	38,193	100
Cattle on Feed	10	5	50	13,860	12,916	93

¹ Revised. ² Calves born during previous 12 months.

